



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/801,527	03/08/01	GEIL	A 10191/1760

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MM71/0810

EXAMINER

GILMAN, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/10/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/801,527

Applicant(s)

GEIL ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Gilman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2001 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the relay and the fuse (claim 6) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim. No new matter should be entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, recites "...a contact set ..." ,in line 3, and "a plurality of contact elements..." , in line 4.

It is unclear if the plurality of contact elements is related to the contact set or they are non-related.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lundergan.

Lundergan (US Pat. No. 3,748,633) discloses a multipole electrical connector comprising:

a contact set with a plurality of contact elements having a contact section and a connecting section,

wherein each contact section (21) is formed together with each connecting section (17) from a single-layer stamped grid.

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to claims 2-4, Lundergan discloses that each contact section having a fork shape and includes a first limb (19), a tie bar, and a second limb (21).

With regard to claim 5, Lundergan discloses that the second limb includes a detent element (23).

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bouley.

Bouley (US Pat. No. 3,748,633) discloses a multipole electrical connector comprising:

a contact set with a plurality of contact elements having a contact section and a connecting section,

wherein each contact section (35, 38) is formed together with each connecting section (29) from a single-layer stamped grid.

With regard to claims 2-4, Bouley discloses that each contact section having a fork shape and includes a first limb (35), a tie bar (30), and a second limb (38).

With regard to claim 5, Bouley discloses that the second limb includes a detent element (32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundergan in view of Francis.

Lundergan discloses all of the limitations except for the opening in the counter-contact section used as the counter-detent element.

Francis (US Pat. No. 3,609, 597) discloses the opening (18) in the counter-contact section used as the counter-detent element (col. 2, lines 20-21).

Art Unit: 2833

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Lundergan's the counter-contact section with the opening used as the counter-detent element, as taught by Francis , to prevent disengagement of the connection.

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundergan in view of Francis as applied to claim 1, 6 above, and further in view of Zintler et al.

Lundergan when modified by Francis discloses all of the limitations except the mating connector is a part of relay or a fuse.

Zintler et al (US Pat. No. 5,823,798) disclose the contact section (10, 11) for connecting relays (8) or a fuse (9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the Lundergan-Francis counterpart connector as a part of relay or a fuse , as taught by Zintler et al, to utilize the connector structure for relay or fuse aggregates.

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundergan in view of Harting et al.

Lundergan discloses all of the limitations except for the partially extrusion-coating of the contact elements.

Harting et al. (US Pat. No. 6,196,853) disclose partially extrusion-coating of the contact elements (col. 1, lines 22-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to manufacture the Lundergan connector using extrusion-coating of the contact elements, as taught by Harting et al, as an alternative method of manufacturing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m - 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where

Application/Control Number: 09/801,527


Page 5

Art Unit: 2833

this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7322 for regular communications and (703) 308-7322 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

AG
August 6, 2001


Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner